

Message Text

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2802

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENTS ON INDO-US JOINT
COMMISSION

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON FEBRUARY 28, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BIPINPAL DAS SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF TERMINATING THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION. DAS EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS FORMED IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS BY BOTH COUNTRIES.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAVAN, WHO HAD PERMITTED DAS TO ANSWER ROUTINE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MEETINGS OF THE INDO-US SUB-COMMISSIONS, ROSE AFTER SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FROM OPPOSITION MEMBERS URGING INDIA TO DECLARE AN END TO ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSIONS. CHAVAN SAID THAT THE GOI NEVER ACTS IN ANGER. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT, HE CONTINUED, THAT THE US DECISION ON ARMS TO PAKISTAN INTRODUCED A NEW ELEMENT IN INDO-US RELATIONS, AN ELEMENT WHICH INDIA REGARDS AS VERY SERIOUS, AND ONE THAT HAS BROUGHT A NEW STRAIN IN THE RELATIONS. INDIA HAS SUFFICIENTLY REACTED, SAID CHAVAN, BUT WE MUST CONSIDER THE WHOLE
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OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US AS WE DO WITH OTHER

COUNTRIES.SCHNEIDER

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